

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----089584 141751Z /50

R 141721Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5734
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 MADRID 09354

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES PLEASE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

DOD FOR SECRETARY BROWN
USNMR SHAPE AND USCINCEUR FOR GEN. HAIG AND GEN. HUYSER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, SP, US
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT GUTTIERREZ MELLADO

1. ON 8/11/78 I HAD AN EXTENSIVE FOLLOW-UP CONVERSATION WITH VICE PRESIDENT/DEFENSE MINISTER GUTIERREZ MELLADO, WHO SPOKE AT LENGTH AND WITH OBVIOUS SATISFACTION OF HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. HE GREATLY APPRECIATED THE RECEPTION HE HAD RECEIVED FROM YOU AND THE OPPORTUNITIES ALL HIS HOSTS AND INTERLOCUTORS PROVIDED TO SPEAK FRANKLY AND OPENLY. IT IS CLEAR THAT HE HOPES THE VICE PRESIDENT, YOU AND THE OTHERS HE INVITED TO VISIT SPAIN WILL FIND IT POSSIBLE TO DO SO IN THE NEAR FUTURE. WE SHALL BE DEALING SEPARATELY WITH EACH OF THE TOPICS HE RAISED DURING HIS VISIT AND WHICH HE REVIEWED WITH ME ON AUGUST 11.

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2. WHAT PARTICULARLY STRUCK ME IN OUR MEETING WAS HIS ARTICULATION, NO DOUBT CONVEYED IN WASHINGTON, OF THE POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CONTEXT IN WHICH SPAIN SEES ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES. HIS TERMS WERE REMARKABLY SIMILAR TO THOSE USED WITH ME BY THE KING, THE PRIME MINISTER, THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHERS. HE SAID THAT SPAIN IS ENTERING A NEW STAGE IN ITS RELATION-

SHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES WHICH WILL INEVITABLY AFFECT

THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE ATTITUDES TOWARD US AND TOWARD ITS PLACE IN WESTERN EUROPE. OUR TREATY IS IN SPANISH EYES A SYMBOL OF ITS PREVIOUS SECOND-CLASS STATUS. THE QUESTION NOW IS WHETHER THE TREATY CAN EVOLVE THROUGH FLEXIBILITY TO BECOME A SYMBOL OF SPAIN'S ACCEPTABLY AS AN EQUAL PARTNER.

3. GUTIERREZ MELLADO ON AUGUST 11, AND THE OTHERS, SAY THAT SPAIN IS ENTERING A NEW POLITICAL SITUATION IN WHICH PREVIOUS ATTITUDES AND WAYS OF DOING THE COUNTRY'S BUSINESS WILL BE AFFECTED, SOME FOR THE BETTER, SOME NOT. TODAY'S SPANISH PUBLIC OPINION IS OVERWHELMINGLY PRO-WESTERN AND FULLY COGNIZANT THAT ITS PREVIOUS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN IN THE COUNTRY'S INTEREST. NOW, THE AMBITIONS AND ORIENTATIONS OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES, THE MEDIA AND PUBLIC OPINION ARE ALL INFLUENTIAL WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH THE GOVERNMENT. THE EXTREME LEFT AND THE EXTREME RIGHT, SEPARATIST TENDENCIES, AND TERRORISM ARE TROUBLESOME BUT NOT DETERMINING. THEY DO, HOWEVER, APPEAL TO CERTAIN SECTORS. TO THIS GENERAL SITUATION, GUTIERREZ MELLADO EMPHASIZED, ARE NOW ADDED THE CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL UNCERTAINTIES OF THE NEXT YEAR AND THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. THESE ARE NOT SEEN IN CRISIS TERMS, BUT THEY DO ADD AN ELEMENT
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OF JUMPINESS TO AN ALREADY UNCLEAR FUTURE.

4. IN THIS CONTEXT, GUTIERREZ MELLADO SAID, THE SPANIARDS NEED THAT THEIR TIES TO US BE AN ASSURANCE THAT PAST SACRIFICES MADE FOR WESTERN DEFENSE, THE COST INCURRED AND THE RISKS TO WHICH THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN EXPOSED, ALL OF WHICH WILL INCREASE, ARE RECOGNIZED AND APPRECIATED. THE FRUITS OF OUR COOPERATION, HE SAID SEVERAL TIMES, MUST BE DISTRIBUTED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO SHOW PUBLIC OPINION AND THE MILITARY THAT THE DEMOCRATIC, OPENLY PRO-WESTERN PATH THE GOVERNMENT IS FOLLOWING IS THE CORRECT ONE FOR SPAIN. FAILING THIS, THE SPANISH PEOPLE ARE LIKELY TO TURN INWARDS OR REACT IN WAYS NEITHER OF US DESIRE.

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5. GUTIERREZ MELLADO COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY SPAIN--
WITH THE COOPERATION IT IS ALREADY EXTENDING, THE IMPORT-
ANCE WE ATTACH TO ITS STRATEGIC LOCATION AND ITS CLEAR
INTENTION TO BECOME A NATO PARTNER AS SOON AS POLITICALLY
FEASIBLE -- SHOULD NOT NOW JOIN AUSTRALIA, JAPAN AND
NEW ZEALAND IN BEING EXCLUDED, ALONG WITH NATO, FROM PD-13
HE DID NOT SEE WHY SPAIN WAS EXPECTED TO BEAR THE FULL
BURDEN OF THE IMPACT OF INFLATION AND THE FALL OF THE
DOLLAR'S VALUE ON OUR DEFENSE RELATIONSHIPS. HE REPEATED
CHARGES THAT AT THE INCREASED COSTS, SPAIN RECEIVED SO
LITTLE FOR ITS DEFENSE NEEDS AS TO MAKE IT HARDLY WORTH
WHILE.

6. GUTIERREZ MELLADO SAID THAT WHEN HE BROUGHT UP PROB-
LEMS LIKE THE TERRITORIAL COMMAND NET (TCN) -- WHICH HE
VERY MUCH WANTS TO SETTLE -- THE SHIP TRANSFER PROBLEM,
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THE PRICING OF EQUIPMENT, FMS INTEREST RATES, NUCLEAR
CONTAMINATION MONITORING, THAT HE WAS POINTING TO AREAS
IN WHICH SOME RESPONSIVENESS FROM US WOULD HAVE NOT ONLY
TANGIBLE BENEFITS TO THE SPANISH ARMED FORCES BUT EVEN
GREATER PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT HERE.

7. I RECOGNIZE THAT WE DISAGREE WITH SOME OF HIS ARGU-

MENTS AND THAT WE CANNOT SATISFY THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT
ON MANY OF THESE ISSUES. HOWEVER, I DO BELIEVE THAT WITH
IMAGINATION AND A DESIRE TO SHOW SYMPATHY WE CAN GO A
LONG WAY TOWARD PROVIDING THE KIND OF NECESSARY REPOSIVE-
NESS WHICH SPAIN'S BELEAGUERED LEADERSHIP NEEDS AND
WHICH WILL SERVE OUR OWN PURPOSES. TODMAN

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